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HAMAS BLAMES ISRAEL AS EXPLOSIONS ROCK AL-SHIFA HOSPITAL IN GAZA

The hospital compound, allegedly used by Hamas as its headquarters, was sheltering thousands of Palestinians when it was hit

2 KILLED, 10 HURT; NO COMMENT FROM ISRAEL

Two persons were reportedly killed and 10 wounded in the strikes. Israel has not responded to the Hamas authorities' claim. Gaza health ministry spokesman Ashraf Al-Qidra claimed Israel had bombed Shifa hospital buildings five times since Thursday night. Palestinian media showed video footage of the aftermath of the strike, with people shouting and crying

TOTAL PALESTINIAN TOLL PEGGED AT 11,000

- Meanwhile, the health ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza put the number of Palestinian casualties at 11,000, a figure that could not be verified
- The numbers put out by Hamas are contested as they don't distinguish between civilian casualties and terrorists killed in action. Also, the figures include civilian deaths due to misfiring of rockets by Hamas | P12

80,000
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SHELTERED AT SHIFA HOSPITAL

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TN guv delaying nod for bills a serious concern, says SC

JAISON WILSON @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Friday expressed "serious concern" over delay by Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi in giving assent to bills passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly.

A three-judge bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra noted that as many as 12 bills are pending with the Tamil Nadu governor and sought the Centre's response to the state government's writ petition accusing the Raj Bhavan of "sitting over" legislations. Senior advocates Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Mukul Rohatgi, and P Wilson appeared on behalf of the state government.

During the hearing, Singhvi submitted that key decisions taken by the state government such as sanction for prosecution, appointment of members to the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission, and grant of premature release to prisoners are awaiting the approval of the governor. The state cannot carry out recruitment without the full quorum of the public service commission including the chairman. "From Punjab to Tamil Nadu, the disease is spreading," he said. States are now made to approach the Supreme Court with the same problems and the Constitution does not permit the governor to act against the state government. Article 200 requires him to deal with bills 'as soon as possible', Singhvi said.

Senior advocate P Wilson said the governor is acting in defiance of the Constitution, and the elected government and governor have become dysfunctional. He submitted five legal propositions for consideration by the Supreme Court regarding the time frame to be fixed for governors while dealing with bills and executive actions. Under Article 91 of the draft constitution, the time limit fixed for President to decide on bills was six weeks and the same can be fixed for governors too, Wilson said.

JUNE SESSION OF PUNJAB ASSEMBLY VALID: SC

Asserting that the governor can't doubt the validity of a session of the legislature, the Supreme Court on Friday held the June 19-20 session of the Punjab assembly constitutionally valid. It pulled up Punjab governor Banwarilal Purohit for not deciding on the bills passed by the state assembly, saying: "You are playing with fire" | P9

LS POLLS IN SIGHT

BSY HAS HIS WAY AS HIS SON MADE K'TAKA BJP CHIEF

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @Bengaluru

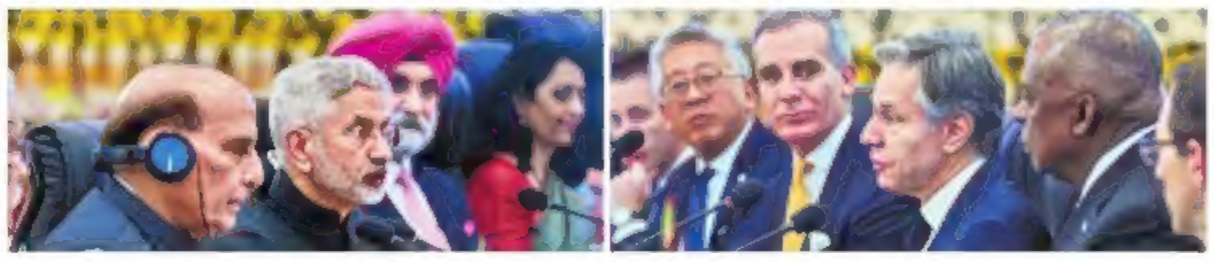
AFTER weighing the pros and cons, the BJP national leadership on Friday appointed former chief minister BS Yediyurappa's son and first-time MLA **BY Vijayendra** as the party's Karnataka president ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The decision on appointing the leader of opposition in the state assembly is likely next Friday (Nov 17).

"My Humble Pranams to PM Narendra Modiji for entrusting me with this huge responsibility as the State President of BJP Karnataka. I consider this as a divine opportunity to work with our beloved Karyakarthas under the able guidance of Senior Leaders in building a strong organizational foundation that envisages the Nationalistic ideals and principles of our Party and its great founders (sic)," he posted on X. "We will be successful in strengthening Prime Minister Narendra Modiji's hands by winning more seats in Karnataka in the next Lok Sabha polls," he said soon after the appointment.

With the state president from the dominant Veerashaiva-Lingayat community, the party may consider either a Vokkaliga or a backward classes leader for the leader of opposition post. In fact, Yediyurappa wanted a big break for his son earlier with a cabinet berth in the then CM Basavaraj Bommai government. But it was denied. His continued effort to ensure a political future for his son has paid off now.

"In one shot, Yediyurappa has felled many birds. He has ensured that no other leader from the Lingayat community is at the helm of party affairs in the state. With this, the leader of opposition may also go to a member from another community," said an analyst.

CONTINUED ON: P4



Combo photos of the fifth India-US 2+2 ministerial dialogue in progress at the Sushma Swaraj Bhavan in New Delhi on Friday | PTI

Canada security figures in 2+2

India shares concern over Khalistani threat to attack Air India flight on Nov 19

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

INDIA on Friday shared with the US the security concerns it has vis-a-vis Canada, at the 2+2 Indo-US ministerial dialogue here. The fifth round of talks was attended by US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

"As far as Canada is concerned, we have been having very consistent conversation with all our friends in governments and our position on this matter has been enunciated in full detail on multiple occasions. Thrust of the conversation is essentially that we have security concerns with Canada. The recent threat by Gurpatwant Pannun is an example to prove our concern," said Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra. Pannun is a Khalistani separatist and founder of the banned Sikhs for Justice. In a recent video, he asked Sikhs not to take any Air India flight on Nov 19 as it would be a security challenge for them.

The other issues that came up for discussions included the Indo Pacific, Israel-Hamas conflict, IMEC, and defence ties.

"We concluded a substantive India-US 2+2 Ministerial Meeting and followed up on PM Modi's State visit to the US this June. Our agenda covered advancing our strategic partnership, including elevating our defense ties, moving forward in space and tech, future logistics cooperation and people to people contacts. We also exchanged perspectives on the Indo-Pacific, South Asia, West Asia and Ukraine conflict. Reaffirmed our commitment to our collaboration in multilateral arena and engaging the Global South," Jaishankar said.

Both sides noted substantial progress in transforming relations across domains based on trust and understanding.

ON ISRAEL

Both sides reiterated that they stand with Israel against terrorism and called for adherence to international humanitarian law, including with regard to protection of civilians. They welcomed humanitarian pauses in the ongoing war

Disaster strikes again as ICC suspends SLC

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

AS if their woeful campaign at the 2023 ODI World Cup and a tug-of-war between the government and Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) were not enough, the sport in the island nation was dealt yet another blow on Friday. The International Cricket Council (ICC) suspended the SLC's membership with immediate effect citing government interference.

The suspension has left many questions unanswered and a few prominent among them are how the ICC will share the prize money of the ongoing tournament with the board, which in fact is not in place. The U-19 men's World Cup to be hosted in the country in January will be uncertain. Meanwhile, the SLC chief Shammi Silva could attend the ICC meeting on November 21. MORE ON P19

EXPRESS READ

Kingpin of job scams nabbed in M'rashtra

KALABURAGI: A police team arrested RD Patil, the kingpin of PSI and FDA recruitment scams, near Solapur in Maharashtra on Friday. The team brought Patil to Ashok Nagar police station here around 8.15 pm and interrogated him. P4

Ensure re-exam for PSIs is fair, govt told

BENGALURU: Upholding the state government's decision to conduct re-exam for the recruitment of 545 PSIs, the Karnataka High Court directed the state government to entrust the re-examination process to an independent agency to ensure fairness. P4

Students rue slashing of scholarships

BENGALURU: The government recently announced that scholarships for children of construction workers would be slashed. While the Labour department has cited insufficient funds, students and experts voiced their discontent over the move | P5

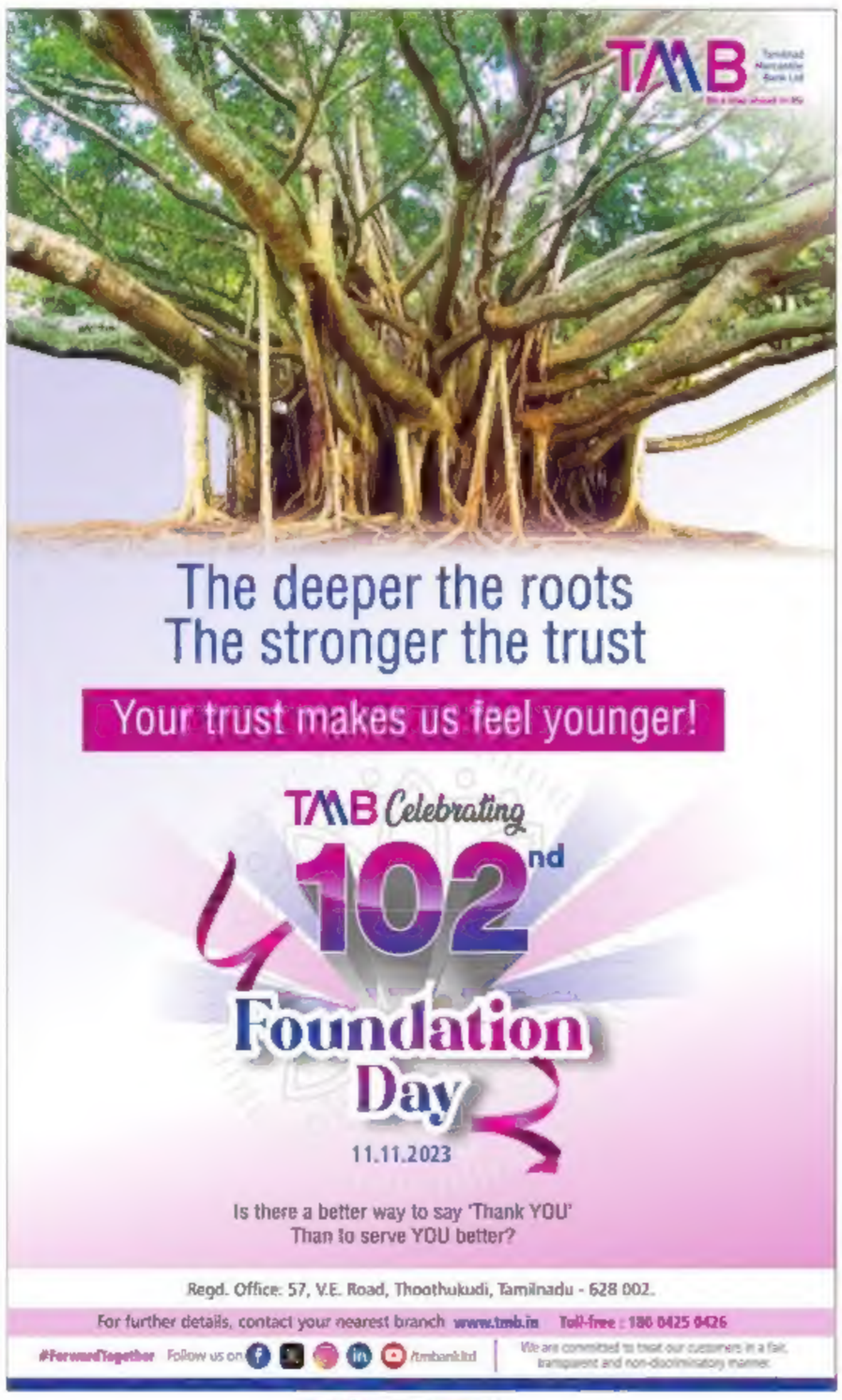
EXPRESS INTAKE

Student falls to death from 16th floor of university | P3

20-year jail term for raping minor in Kalaburagi | P5

I&B ministry comes up with policy for ads in digi media | P9

'Creating best facilities for border villages priority' | P9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